

Claim Amendments

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A network interface, comprising:

a direct memory access unit; and

circuitry to:

receive and transmit network data;

maintain a set of statistics metering operation of the network interface, the set of statistics including at least one selected from the group of: (1) a number of bytes received, and (2) a number of packets received;

~~receive data specifying a time interval~~ a periodic time value to perform ~~[[a]]~~ periodic direct memory access transfers ~~transfer~~ of the maintained set of statistics to a host processor memory; and

periodically initiate a direct memory access transfer of the set of statistics to the host processor memory ~~in accordance with the received data specifying the time interval~~ at a periodicity of the periodic time value.

2. (previously presented) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the set of statistics comprises each of the following: a number of packets received by the interface, a number of bytes received by the interface, a number of packets transmitted by the interface, and a number of bytes transmitted by the interface.

3. (currently amended) The network interface of claim 2, wherein the circuitry comprises circuitry to include a timestamp with the direct memory access transfer of the set of statistics, the timestamp being a time when values of the set of statistics transferred by direct memory access were set by the network interface ~~indicating a time at which the set of statistics were captured.~~

4. (currently amended) The network interface of claim 2, wherein the circuitry comprises circuitry to include a sequence count with the direct memory access transfers ~~transfer~~ of the at least one statistic, the sequence count sequentially numbering successively DMA-ed sets of the statistics.

5. (previously presented) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the set of statistics comprises multiple RMON (Remote Monitoring) statistics.

6. (previously presented) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the circuitry comprises circuitry to initiate direct memory access transfer of received network data.

7. (original) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the network interface comprises a framer.

8. (original) The network interface of claim 7, wherein the network interface comprises a Media Access Controller (MAC).

9. (original) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the network interface comprises a PHY.

10. (currently amended) The network interface of claim 1, further comprising circuitry to configure the circuitry to initiate the direct memory access transfers ~~transfer~~.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) The network interface of claim 10, wherein the circuitry to configure comprises at least one register.

13. (original) The network interface of claim 10, wherein the circuitry to configure comprises circuitry to determine configuration information from received packets.

14. (currently amended) The network interface of claim 13, wherein the circuitry to determine configuration information from received packets comprises circuitry to intercept packets received from the host traveling along a transmit path.

15. (original) The network interface of claim 1, wherein the direct memory access unit comprises circuitry to notify a processor of completion of a transfer.

16. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving data, at a network interface, ~~specifying a time interval~~ a time interval value to perform a direct memory access transfer of a set of statistics metering operation of the network interface from the network interface to a memory accessed by at least one processor;

maintaining the set of statistics metering operation of the network interface at the network interface; and

repeatedly transferring, by direct memory access, from the network interface to the memory accessed by at least one processor, the set of statistics metering operation of the network interface ~~based on the data specifying the time interval~~, wherein the time between initiating transferrings is equal to the time interval value.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

transferring packets from the network interface to the memory by direct memory access.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the comprise RMON (Remote Monitoring) statistics.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising transferring at least one of a timestamp and a sequence number sequentially numbering successively DMA-ed sets of the statistics with the statistics, the timestamp being a time when values of the set of statistics transferred by direct memory access were set by the network interface.

20. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the network interface groups digital bits into frames.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising configuring the transfer of the at least one of the statistics.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the configuring comprises identifying at least one memory location to receive a transferred data set of the statistics.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21,
further comprising receiving a packet at the network interface from the host; and
wherein the configuring comprises configuring based on data included in the packet.

24. (original) The method of claim 16,
wherein the transferring into the memory comprises transferring into a cache memory of at least one of the at least one processors.

25. (original) The method of claim 16,
further comprising signaling at least one of the at least one processors when the transfer completes.

26. (currently amended) A program product, disposed on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for causing programmable circuitry of a network interface to:

access data, at the network interface, ~~specifying a time interval~~ a time value to perform a direct memory access transfer of a set of statistics metering operation of the network interface from the network interface to a memory accessed by at least one processor;

maintain the set of statistics metering operation of the network interface; and

initiate transfer, by direct memory access, from the network interface to the memory accessed by at least one processor, the set of statistics metering operation of the network interface ~~based on the data specifying the time interval~~ at a time equal to the time value.

27. (original) The program of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to:

transfer packets from the network interface to the memory by direct memory access.

28. (previously presented) The program of claim 26, wherein the statistics RMON (Remote Monitoring) statistics.

29. (currently amended) The program of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to include in the direct memory access transfer ~~at least one of~~ a timestamp and a sequence number with the at least one of the statistics, the sequence number being a number representing a place of the set of statistics within a series of statistic set transfers, the timestamp being a time when the network interface captured the set of statistics for transfer.

30. (original) The program of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to configure the transfer of the at least one of the statistics.

31. (currently amended) The program of claim 30, wherein the instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to configure comprise instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to configure at least one memory location to receive a set of the statistics ~~transferred data~~.

32. (currently amended) The program of claim 30, ~~further comprising instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to configure the transfer based on contents of~~ wherein the time value is included in a received packet received by the network interface.

33. (original) The program of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the programmable circuitry to signal at least one of the at least one processors when the transfer completes.

34. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

at least one processor;

memory operationally coupled to the at least one processor;

a network interface, comprising:

a direct memory access unit configured to be operationally coupled to the memory; and

circuitry to:

~~access data specifying a time interval~~ a periodic time value to

perform ~~[[a]]~~ direct memory access ~~transfers~~ transfer of multiple RMON

(Remote Monitoring) statistics metering operation of the network interface to the memory;

maintain the multiple RMON (Remote Monitoring) statistics

metering operation of the network interface; and

periodically initiate direct memory access transfer of multiple ones of the RMON statistics metering operation of the network interface ~~based on the data specifying the time interval~~ the periodicity equal to the periodic time value.

35. (currently amended) The network interface of claim 34, further comprising circuitry to configure the circuitry to initiate the periodic direct memory access transfer.

36. (currently amended) The network interface of claim ~~34~~ 35 wherein the circuitry to configure comprises circuitry to determine configuration information from packets received by the network interface.

37. (original) The network interface of claim 34, further comprising circuitry, operationally coupled to the direct memory access unit, to initiate transfer of packets received via the network connection.

38. (previously presented) The network interface of claim 34, wherein the circuitry to initiate direct memory access transfer comprises circuitry to include at least one of a timestamp and a sequence number sequentially numbering successively DMA-ed sets of the statistics with the transfer of the multiple ones of the statistics.